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Supreme Court, U.S.
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No.

In The

Supreme Court Of The United States

NOVEMBER TERM, 1985

STATE OF CONNECTICUT,
Petitioner,

v.

RONALD SUTTON,
Respondent.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT WITH ATTACHED APPENDIX

JULIA DiCOCCO DEWEY
Assistant State's Attorney
235 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 789-7894

With Whom On The Brief is:

ARNOLD MARKLE
State's Attorney

MICHAEL DEARINGTON
Assistant State's Attorney

HOPE

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525-6029

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. When a criminal defendant elects to challenge a knowing and voluntary plea of guilty, upon conviction following a full evidentiary trial on the merits, absent any evidence of vindictiveness, is a trial court limited by the sentence forfeited upon the defendant's withdrawal of his plea of guilty?

2. Is a subsequent evidentiary trial on the merits an "event" sufficient to overcome the presumption of vindictiveness established by this Court in *North Carolina v. Pearce*, 395 U.S. 711 (1969)?

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RONALD SUTTON,
Respondent.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Petitioner respectfully requests a writ of certiorari be issued to review the decision and judgment of the Connecticut Supreme Court, entered on September 10, 1985, which remanded the respondent's trial for resentencing.

OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the Connecticut Supreme Court, reported at 197 Conn. 495, _____ A.2d _____ (1985), is attached hereto as Appendix A.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the Connecticut Supreme Court was entered on September 10, 1985. This Court has jurisdiction to review the judgment of the Connecticut Supreme Court by writ of certiorari pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1257.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED

The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides in pertinent part: "[N]or shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb."

The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides in pertinent part:

> No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law, nor deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On July 7, 1981, the defendant, Ronald Sutton, while represented by counsel, pled guilty to the crimes of sexual assault in the first degree, kidnapping in the second degree and unlawful threatening, Connecticut General Statutes §§ 53a-70(a), 53a-94(a) and 53a-62(a)(1). In accordance with his plea, he was sentenced to a term of confinement of not less than seven nor more than twelve years.

On November 30, 1981, the defendant, with the aid of counsel, filed a writ of habeas corpus challenging the legality of his confinement. Although the basis for his challenge was a sentence defect, the defendant in reality alleged that he had new evidence in support of his innocence. In accordance with the defendant's desires, the 1981 guilty plea was withdrawn and a new trial ordered.

In the plea entered on July 7, 1981, the factual recitation presented by the State, although adequate to validate the proceedings, could hardly be classified as exhaustive evidence of the magnitude of the offense committed by this defendant. The factual recitation gave no indication of the injury suffered by the young victim in this case, gave no indication of the effect of this offense on the victim's family, and certainly did not indicate the extent to which the defendant's actions could be classified as calculated. Obviously, this recitation could not begin to cover the detail offered by the multitude of witnesses the State introduced at the subsequent trial. The sentence given the defendant pursuant to his plea was directly attributable to the fact that a young victim was not forced to testify.

It is important to consider the relief sought by this defendant at his habeas proceedings. Although the defendant's application for writ of habeas corpus was based upon an illegal sentence, the defendant never desired to have the sentence corrected. Instead, the defendant sought to have his conviction declared null and void. The defendant was cautioned

repeatedly that his desire to void the guilty plea exposed him to substantially greater sentencing.

The defendant subsequently pled not guilty and was tried by a jury of six. The trial resulted in a verdict of guilty. On October 5, 1982, the defendant was sentenced to a term of confinement of not less than sixteen nor more than thirty-one years.[1]

When defense counsel urged the trial court to impose the same sentence as received pursuant to the void plea, the court was reminded that the primary motivation for the original sentence was the fact that the defendant's plea saved a youthful victim and her family from the ordeal of testifying.

The defendant filed an appeal with the Connecticut Supreme Court, arguing that the imposition of a more severe sentence was violative of the protection against double jeopardy. The Connecticut Supreme Court, agreeing in part with the defendant's argument, remanded the case for resentencing not inconsistent with the dictates of *North Carolina v. Pearce*, 395 U.S. 711 (1969). (Appendix).

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[1] After the full evidentiary trial desired by this defendant resulted in a verdict of guilty, upon sentencing the trial court was able to consider not only evidence at trial, the defendant's demeanor, the original presentence report, but also psychiatric examination evidencing the defendant's violent criminal nature.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE PETITION

1. A Criminal Defendant Should Not Be Allowed To Retain The Benefits Derived From His Plea Of Guilty When That Defendant Subsequently Elects To Void That Plea And Pursue An Evidentiary Trial.

Scholarly and professional opinion once split substantially over the question of the legitimacy of the guilty plea, viewing the procedure as an illegitimate ritual clothed in secrecy. However, during the last two decades, the plea of guilty has become viewed increasingly as a valid trial practice which, when "properly administered," is an "encouraged" and "desirable" "component of the administration of justice." *Santobello v. New York*, 404 U.S. 257, 260-61 (1971). The fact that guilty pleas play a dominant role in the American justice system is undeniable. *See generally*, ALSCHULER, *Plea Bargaining And Its History*, 79 Colum. L. Rev. 1 (1979). This Court has noted, "(W)hatever might be the situation in an ideal world, the fact is that the guilty plea and the often concomitant plea bargain are important components of this country's criminal justice system." *Blackledge v. Allison*, 431 U.S. 63 (1977). *See also, Brady v. United States*, 397 U.S. 742, 750-51 (1970). *See also Mabry v. Johnson*, _____ U.S. _____, 104 S.Ct. 2543, 2547 n.8 (1984); *Corbitt v. New Jersey*, 439 U.S. 212, 223 (1978); *Santobello v. New York*, 404 U.S. 257, 261 (1971).

It is obvious that as the legitimacy of the guilty plea has increased, so too have the constitutional protections accorded criminal defendants who choose to plea guilty. These safeguards include in addition to the critically important representation by competent counsel: The protections of full disclosure on the record of all plea agreements; full inquiry on the record into the voluntariness of a plea; the court's full advice to the defendant of the rights and consequences of his/her plea of guilty; and meticulous determination of the

defendant's comprehension of all of these aforementioned rights. It is equally apparent that none of these protections were available to the petitioner in *Simpson v. Rice, sub nom North Carolina v. Pearce,* 395 U.S. 711 (1969). *Cf. Blackledge v. Allison, supra.* They were available in the instant case.

The Connecticut Supreme Court considered itself bound by *North Carolina v. Pearce,* and thus did not consider either the evolution of guilty pleas or the fact that in exchange for any plea of guilty, there are several potential prosecutorial concessions, all of which entail the State's relinquishing its right to seek maximum exposure for the offenses committed by a defendant. The extension of leniency in exchange for guilty pleas is not constitutionally forbidden. *Corbitt v. New Jersey, supra,* 439 U.S. at 223-24 and n.14. These considerations can properly be denied to those who have not demonstrated "those attributes on which leniency is based." *Id.*

There is no constitutional right to plead guilty. *Weathersford v. Bursey,* 429 U.S. 545, 561 (1977). There are constitutional protections associated with that plea. Under modern standards, the guilty plea is a knowing, voluntary waiver of rights in exchange for a perceived benefit. Inherent in a guilty plea is a choice between the constitutionally protected right to trial and the risk of a higher sentence.

In a system that tolerates and encourages the negotiation of pleas, there necessarily exist difficult choices between desired leniency and the hope for vindication at a jury trial. This pressure is a part of the give-and-take of the guilty plea environment. The imposition of choices is not constitutionally prohibited, even if these choices have a chilling effect on the defendant's selection of options.

In *Chaffin v. Stynchombe,* 412 U.S. 17 (1973), this Court had the opportunity to consider the issue of the fairness of government imposed choices in the criminal justice process. There the Court refused to extend the *North Carolina v. Pearce* doctrine to a situation involving imposition of a harsher

sentence after the second trial of a defendant whose first trial conviction was reversed on appeal. There the Court commented that stiffer penalties after a trial results in conviction is constitutionally valid in the absence of vindictiveness, despite whatever incidental deterrent effect the choice of accepting a greater sentence might have on a defendant's right to appeal. 412 U.S. at 29. The potential chilling effect was discarded summarily. *Id.*

The notion that permissible plea negotiations result in the concomitant imposition of difficult choices upon a defendant was expanded in *Corbitt v. New Jersey, supra*, where this Court noted in passing:

> [N]ot every burden on the exercise of a constitutional right, and not every pressure or encouragement to waive such a right, is invalid.

439 U.S. at 218-19.

The difficult choices inherent in plea negotiations were recognized by the Court, but were not considered fundamentally unfair. *Id.* In a latter case, the Court commented that there was no fundamental unfairness in the sense of the due process clause "so long as the accused is free to accept or reject the prosecutor's offer." *Bordenkircher v. Hayes*, 434 U.S. 357, 363 (1978). *See also United States v. Goodwin*, 457 U.S. 368, 378 (1982).

Significantly, none of the petitioners in *Corbitt, Chaffin, Bordenkircher* or *Goodwin* were viewed as "chilled" in the exercise of their deliberate choice to seek a constitutionally protected right. As did this defendant, all faced the potential for harsher sentencing upon successful pursuit of those rights. The defendant in the present case made a deliberate, albeit erroneous, choice to seek vindication at the expense of his guarantee of leniency upon plea of guilty. The fact he now regrets that choice should not have been a basis for relief. Thus

the Connecticut Supreme Court erred in presuming that *North Carolina v. Pearce* controlled disposition in this case. Although an accused can withdraw a guilty plea, once withdrawn, the plea is a complete nullity. *Kercheval v. United States*, 274 U.S. 220, 224 (1926). Upon withdrawal, an accused is faced with several options, none of which include perpetual specific performance of the sentencing concessions associated with the voided plea. *United States v. Loe*, 586 F.2d 1015, 1017 n.2 (4th Cir. 1978); *Ehl v. Estelle*, 656 F.2d 166, 168-9 (5th Cir. 1981), *cert. denied* 455 U.S. 834 (1982); *United States v. Donahly*, 529 F.2d 831, 832 (5th Cir. 1976); *United States v. Anderson*, 514 F.2d 583 (7th Cir. 1975); *United States v. Thalman*, 457 F. Supp. 307, 308-10 (E.D. Wis. 1978). The inability to enforce the withdrawn offer is without constitutional significance inasmuch as the withdrawal did not affect the voluntariness or intelligence of the defendant's subsequent actions. *Cf. Mabry v. Johnson*, _____ U.S._____, 104 S.Ct. 2543 (1984).

2. Should The Doctrine Of *North Carolina v. Pearce* Apply To The Present Case, The Fact That The Defendant Elected To Pursue A Trial On The Merits Is An "Event" Sufficient To Overcome Any Presumption Of Vindictiveness.

The defendant would have this Court assume his present sentence is solely a judicial retaliation for his desire to void a guilty plea. To the contrary, as in every criminal case this defendant received an appropriate punishment as a response to his criminal activity. *United States v. Goodwin, supra*, 457 U.S. at 373. Subsequent to his trial on the merits, he had argued that the sentence received violated his right to due process under the law, claiming he is entitled to a presumption of vindictiveness. This presumed vindictiveness is a key component of the defendant's claim. Fortunately for societal interests, the legal presumptions supporting the *North Carolina v. Pearce* theory have no applicability in the context of plea proceedings.

The central component of the defendant's claim is the presumption that under all circumstances, the sentencing procedure contained a reasonable likelihood of vindictiveness, *North Carolina v. Pearce, supra*, 395 U.S. at 725; *Blackledge v. Perry*, 447 U.S. 21, 27 (1974). The defendant would desire a prophylactic doctrine. Fortunately, *North Carolina v. Pearce* has been significantly limited by subsequent cases which together have confined *Pearce* to its specific facts.

The initial limitation is found in *Colten v. Kentucky*, 407 U.S. 104 (1972) and *Chaffin v. Stynchombe*, 412 U.S. 17 (1973). In *Colten*, this Court refused to find a presumption of vindictiveness where an accused received a heavier sentence after trial de novo in a court of general jurisdiction. In *Chaffin*, this Court refused to find vindictiveness when a defendant was sentenced after retrial by a different judge. In both cases, the change in trial procedure resulted in a finding that the potential for vindictiveness was de minimus. *See also Blackledge v. Perry, supra*, 417 U.S. at 26; *United States v. Goodwin, supra*, 457 U.S. at 373, 374 n.5.

The reasonable likelihood for vindictiveness was also held to be inapplicable to the plea bargaining process. In *Bordenkircher v. Hayes*, 434 U.S. 357 (1978), this Court held there was no potential for vindictiveness in a plea negotiating process "so long as the accused is free to accept or reject the prosecutor's offer." 434 U.S. at 363. The Court has subsequently commented that the *North Carolina v. Pearce* test is particularly inappropriate in the plea bargaining milieu where both judicial and prosecutorial assessment of cases can crystallize only after trial has begun and all evidence has been discovered and evaluated, *United States v. Goodwin, supra*, 457 U.S. at 381.

This Court is reminded of the precise language of *North Carolina v. Pearce*:

> A trial judge is not constitutionally precluded, in other words, from imposing a new sentence, whether greater or less than the original sentence, in the light of events subsequent to the first trial they may have thrown new light upon the defendant's life, health, habits, conduct, and mental and moral propensities" . . . Such information may come to the judge's attention from evidence adduced or the second trial itself, from a new presentence investigation, from the defendant's prison record, or possibly from other sources. *North Carolina v. Pearce*, 395 U.S. at 723. (citations omitted).

The Petitioner in this case would argue that the trial itself was an "event" sufficient to overcome any presumption of vindictiveness. The fact the defendant in this case changed his position and decided to proceed to trial rather than plead guilty was a valid sentencing consideration. The initial plea was, in itself, an indicia of rehabilitation, and thus a proper factor in the judicial assessment of clemency. *See Corbitt v. New Jersey*, 439 U.S. at 223-24 at n.14. In the present case, when the defendant withdrew his plea of guilty, he also withdrew the plea for leniency, a plea originally granted because of the traumatic impact a trial would have had upon the defendant's victim. That request for a trial became the type of "identifiable conduct" which could support the increase in sentence. *United States v. Cunningham*, 529 F.2d 884 (6th Cir. 1976). *See also People v. Miller*, 103 A.D.2d 808, 65 N.Y. 2d 502 (N.Y. Ct. of App. 1985).

The defendant in the present case was given a series of choices. At each stage of the criminal process, he was advised of the consequences of his choices. There was never any coercive influence. There was never any vindictive action. Consequently, the sentence imposed following a trial on the merits was constitutionally valid.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, the petition for a writ of certiorari should be granted.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JULIA DiCOCCO DEWEY
Assistant State's Attorney
235 Church Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510
(203) 789-7894

With Whom On The Brief:

ARNOLD MARKLE
State's Attorney

MICHAEL DEARINGTON
Assistant State's Attorney

APPENDIX TO PETITION

CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT RULING

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT v. RONALD G. SUTTON (11753)

PETERS, C. J., HEALEY, DANNEHY, SANTANIELLO and CALLAHAN, Js.

The defendant, who had been permitted to withdraw his plea of guilty to the crimes of sexual assault in the first degree, kidnapping in the second degree and threatening after he had been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than seven nor more than twelve years, was convicted, following a jury trial, of the same crimes and was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than sixteen nor more than thirty-one years. From that conviction, the defendant appealed to this court. Since the record did not disclose, as is required by due process, that the increase in the defendant's sentence was based on objective information concerning identifiable conduct of his occurring subsequent to the original sentencing, and since the sentence imposed was violative of the statute on indeterminate sentences (§ 53a-35 [c] [2]) in that the minimum term was more than one half of the maximum term, the matter was remanded for resentencing.

Argued June 5—decision released September 10, 1985

Substitute information charging the defendant with the crimes of sexual assault in the first degree, kidnapping in the second degree and threatening, brought to the Superior Court in the judicial district of New Haven and tried to the jury before *Mulvey, J.*; verdict and judgment of guilty on all counts, from which the defendant appealed to this court. *Error; remanded with direction.*

Jon C. Blue, assistant public defender, with whom, on the brief, was *Joette Katz*, public defender, for the appellant (defendant).

Julia D. Dewey, assistant state's attorney, with whom, on the brief, were *Arnold Markle*, state's attorney, and *Michael Dearington*, assistant state's attorney, for the appellee (state).

ARTHUR H. HEALEY, J. This appeal arises from the judgment of sentence imposed in connection with the

defendant's rape of a fourteen year old girl in Wallingford on May 21, 1979. On October 4, 1982, the defendant Ronald Sutton was found guilty by a jury on each count of a three count information. The first count charged the crime of sexual assault in the first degree in violation of General Statutes § 53a-70 (a);[1] the second count charged the crime of kidnapping in the second degree in violation of General Statutes § 53a-94 (a);[2] and the third count charged the crime of threatening in violation of General Statutes § 53a-62 (a) (1).[3] On October 5, 1982, the defendant was sentenced on the first count to a term of not less than seven and a half years nor more than fifteen years, on the second count to a term of not less than seven and a half years nor more than fifteen years with the sentence on the second count to run consecutive to that on the first count and to a sentence of one year on the third count to run consecutive to the sentence on the first and second counts. The judgment stated that an effective sentence of not less than sixteen years and not more than thirty-one years was imposed.

[1] General Statutes § 53a-70 (a) provides: "(a) A person is guilty of sexual assault in the first degree when such person compels another person to engage in sexual intercourse by the use of force against such other person or a third person, or by the threat of use of force against such other person or against a third person which reasonably causes such person to fear physical injury to such person or a third person."

[2] General Statutes § 53a-94 (a) provides: "(a) A person is guilty of kidnapping in the second degree with a firearm when he kidnaps in the second degree, as provided in section 53a-94, and in the commission of such offense he uses or is armed with and threatens the use of or uses or displays or represents by his words or conduct that he possesses a pistol, revolver, machine gun, shotgun, rifle or other firearm. No person shall be convicted of kidnapping in the second degree and kidnapping in the second degree with a firearm upon the same transaction but such person may be charged and prosecuted for both such offenses upon the same information."

[3] General Statutes § 53a-62 (a) (1) provides: "(a) A person is guilty of threatening when: (1) By physical threat, he intentionally places or attempts to place another person in fear of imminent serious physical injury . . . ."

On October 5, 1982, the defendant appealed to this court. He frames the issue on appeal in this fashion: "Did the imposition of a more severe sentence on the Defendant following his reconviction after he successfully challenged his first conviction fail to comport with the requirements of *North Carolina* v. *Pearce*, 395 U.S. 711 [89 S. Ct. 2072, 23 L. Ed. 2d 656] (1969), and deprive the Defendant of liberty without due process of law in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States?" The defendant is challenging not his underlying conviction of October 5, 1982, but rather the sentence imposed on account of that conviction. He argues that this sentence should be vacated and that the case should be remanded for a resentencing proceeding comporting with *North Carolina* v. *Pearce*, supra.

The factual background pertinent to our disposition is the following. On July 7, 1981, the defendant pleaded guilty under the *Alford*[4] doctrine to the same three charges of which he was later found guilty by a jury on October 4, 1982. At the time of the July 7, 1981 plea, the trial court, *Reynolds, J.*, after an extensive canvass, indicated that it intended to impose an effective sentence of not less than seven and not more than twelve years in prison, and, ordering a presentence investigation, it continued the matter for sentencing to August 14, 1981.[5] On the latter date, the trial court did sentence the defendant on the first count charging sexual assault in the first degree to a term of not less than

[4] See *North Carolina* v. *Alford*, 400 U.S. 25, 91 S. Ct. 160, 27 L. Ed. 2d 162 (1970).

[5] While the state indicated that it wanted a somewhat higher sentence, the trial court, at the state's suggestion, put on the record that the age of the victim was an important consideration for the trial court's proposed sentence as it "did not want to put her through the trauma of coming into court and testifying in an open public trial" and for that reason was inclined to be "more liberal" than the state on the matter of the sentence to be imposed.

seven years nor more than twelve years, on the second count charging kidnapping in the second degree to a term of not less than seven years nor more than twelve years, and on the third count charging threatening to one year. It ordered that all the sentences were to run concurrently for an effective sentence of not less than seven years and not more than twelve years.[6]

Thereafter, on November 30, 1981, the defendant filed an application for a writ of habeas corpus.[7] *Sutton* v. *Warden*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford-New Britain at Hartford, No. 266428. The sole ground alleged in the application for the issuance of the writ was that "[the defendant's] imprisonment is illegal in that the minimum terms of his sentence [of August 14, 1981] for sexual assault in the first degree and kidnapping in the second degree are more than one-half of the maximum terms imposed for those crimes, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-35 (c) (2)."[8] The prayer

[6] Immediately after the imposition of this sentence and in the defendant's presence, the trial court said: "He has a right to apply to the Sentence Review Division for review of this sentence"; the clerk asked that the record reflect that the defendant "is served with notice of application for right to have sentence reviewed."

[7] Counsel for the defendant on this appeal was (1) not the counsel who negotiated the *Alford* plea bargain and (2) not the counsel who in fact appeared for the defendant when the hearing was held on his application for the writ of habeas corpus.

[8] General Statutes (Rev. to 1979) § 53a-35 provides in pertinent part: "(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) the minimum term of an indeterminate sentence shall be fixed by the court and specified in the sentence as follows: (1) For a class A felony, the minimum term shall not be less than ten nor more than twenty-five years; (2) for a class B, C or D felony the court may fix a minimum term of not less than one year nor more than one-half of the maximum term imposed, except that (A) where the maximum is less than three years the minimum term may be more than one-half the maximum term imposed or (B) when a person is found guilty under section 53a-59 (a) (1), section 53-59a, 53a-101 (a) (1) or 53a-134 (a) (2), the minimum term shall be not less than five years and such sentence shall not be suspended or reduced, or when a person is found guilty under section 53a-60c, the minimum term shall be not less than three years and such sentence shall not be suspended or reduced, or when a person is found guilty

for relief requested that the habeas court "issue an order declaring his sentences for sexual assault in the first degree and kidnapping in the second degree *null and void* . . . ." (Emphasis added.)

On March 15, 1982, a hearing was held on the defendant's application for a writ of habeas corpus at which the defendant, his defense counsel and assistant state's attorney Michael Dearington, were present. At the outset, the defendant argued that the sentence should have been not less than six years and not more than twelve years rather than the sentence imposed of not less than seven nor more than twelve years because the sentencing statutes provided that the minimum sentence imposed could not exceed one-half the maximum. Admitted as an exhibit, the affidavit of the defendant's attorney at his August 14, 1981 sentencing recited in part that the defendant "plead [sic] guilty upon the understanding, *inter alia*, he would receive an effective sentence of seven to twelve years to serve." (Emphasis in original.) The state argued that it felt that the habeas court, *N. O'Neill, J.*, did not have "the authority to change sentences" and that the matter "should be either referred to Sentence Review or he should be allowed to withdraw his plea, and we start from round one again." The defendant himself responded that "[t]hat would be fine with me." The state said that it had no objection to going to the sentence review division but also said "I'm not sure what

under section 53a-60b, the minimum term shall be not less than two years and such sentence shall not be suspended or reduced . . .

"(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (c), except as provided in subdivision (2) of said subsection (c), when a person is sentenced for a class C or D felony or for an unclassified felony, the maximum sentence for which does not exceed ten years, the court may impose a definite sentence of imprisonment and fix a term of one year or less; except when a person is found guilty under sections 53a-55a, 53a-56a, 53a-60a, 53a-70a, 53a-72b, 53a-92a, 53a-94a, 53a-102a and 53a-103a, the court shall not fix a term of less than one year."

the petitioner is asking for." A colloquy ensued,[9] with the court, the defendant and both counsel participating, during which the withdrawal of the defendant's guilty plea and a new trial became focal. The court,

[9] The transcript of this colloquy discloses the following:

"Mr. Dearington: I have no objection to it going to Sentence Review. I'm not sure what the petitioner was asking for.

"The Court: I think what he's saying, you're going to let him withdraw his plea and start over?

"Mr. Dearington: I would be delighted. I hope he understands, once he does that, the sentence in this case is of no relevance whatsoever in future proceedings.

"The Court: There may be a certain danger in that, Mr. Sutton.

"The Defendant: I understand that. Can I say something? Now, you have had me locked up four years, and I never opened my mouth before. I was arrested June the 5th, 1979. One time it was over two years I stayed in that Correctional Center, over two years; couldn't get to court, and Hugh Keefe, I have letters from him, threatening me for more time than the statute actually called for. I have FBI documents they kept from me all the time, showing they are not my prints connected with this case.

"The Court: Okay. Maybe you think you have got a decent chance — you may have a decent chance then on a trial?

"The Defendant: That's what I want.

"The Court: You want a trial?

"The Defendant: Right.

"The Court: The State's Attorney's Office is indicating they are perfectly willing to give you a trial, which means withdraw your plea of guilty and you'll start over.

"The Defendant: That would be fine with me. When I went to court, I don't hardly remember even being in court.

"The Court: And your State's Attorney's Office indicates that that is acceptable?

"Mr. Smith: I hope — I'm not sure — I hope this doesn't become a problem. This gentleman is aware of the fact that now the sentences [sic] are muted out and we start over again, that he is exposed to the maximum penalties involved in the crime?

"The Defendant: I am.

"The Court: Certainly exposed to some penalty that is in excess of seven to twelve. Do you understand that?

"The Defendant: I understand that.

"The Court: You can do worse than you have done.

"The Defendant: No, I can't either. I have committed no crime in this stinking state. I have got proof of it. They let me go crazy in this jailhouse and sent me here.

"The Court: If the State proves the case against you and you're found

defense counsel and the state then all expressly warned the defendant that if he chose to withdraw his guilty plea and have a new trial, the risk of incurring an increased sentence existed if a guilty verdict were returned. Although the defendant stated that he understood "that," the court said it would delay its decision until it was informed that the defendant's attorney had conferred with him and had, in writing, notified the court that the defendant wished to withdraw his guilty plea. Upon receiving a "positive statement" to that effect, the court said that then "I'll grant the motion to withdraw the guilty pleas and erase all the prior elections."

On March 22, 1982, the defendant's counsel wrote to the habeas court stating that he had spoken to the defendant, and "warned him that he would open himself to the maximum sentences for the crimes charged, and that there is a possibility of receiving a term of imprisonment substantially longer than the original

guilty, the judge can sentence you to a term that is more harsh, longer, worse than the one you're presently under.

"The Defendant: Yes, sir. I understand that.

"The Court: And you're willing to give up this possibly lower sentence for the opportunity to have a full trial, which you think you may be vindicated absolutely and found not guilty? Counselor, do you want an opportunity to confer with your client before he takes this rather large step?

"Mr. Smith: I would, your Honor.

"The Court: All right. I'll do this. I'll hold this decision until I hear from your attorney that he's conferred with you, and I want to hear it in writing that this is what you want, that you do want to withdraw your plea, and upon receiving a positive statement about that, that you do want to withdraw your plea and in writing from your counsel, I'll grant the motion to withdraw the guilty pleas, and erase all the prior elections.

"The Defendant: Thank you, your Honor.

"The Court: And you can start over and have a jury trial and the whole thing, but I want you to confer with counsel first, because it's a large step, not a small matter that you're doing here, and it might be better off to leave it where it is, but that, of course, is up to you and your attorney. All right."

sentence," but that the defendant "indicated to me his desire to go ahead with a new trial."[10] The defendant's counsel also enclosed with that letter the defendant's affidavit "to that effect," which, inter alia, acknowledged his attorney's warning. The defendant thus swore: "I fully understand the risk involved, but have nevertheless decided to withdraw my guilty plea and

[10] The letter of March 22, 1982, to the court was in full as follows:

"LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS
340 Capitol Avenue, Room 101
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
Telephone (203) 566-2030

March 22, 1982

The Honorable Norris O'Neill
Court House
103 Raymond Road
West Hartford, Connecticut 06107

Dear Judge O'Neill:

I am writing in regard to *Sutton* v. *Warden*, Docket No. 266429 [sic] which you heard on the habeas calendar at Somers on March 15, 1982. At that time you indicated that you would reserve your judgment until I had a chance to confer with Mr. Sutton.

To refresh your memory, Mr. Sutton had been given a sentence of 7 to 12 years, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-35 (c) (2). On March 15, Assistant State's Attorney Michael Dearington indicated that the state would allow Mr. Sutton to withdraw his guilty plea and proceed with a new trial.

I spoke with Mr. Sutton on March 19, 1982. I warned him that he would open himself to the maximum sentences for the crimes charged, and that there is a possibility of receiving a term of imprisonment substantially longer than the original sentence. Mr. Sutton indicated to me his desire to go ahead with a new trial. Please find enclosed his Affidavit to that effect.

If I can be of any further assistance to the Court, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

/s/Brian W. Smith
Brian W. Smith
Attorney at Law
BWS:ee
Encl."

proceed with a new trial."[11] Shortly thereafter, on April 28, 1982, the habeas court issued its memorandum of decision,[12] finding that the defendant's "sen-

[11] The affidavit enclosed with Attorney Smith's letter of March 22, 1982, was the following:

"AFFIDAVIT

I, Ronald G. Sutton, having been first duly sworn, do hereby make affidavit and say as follows:

1. I am the Plaintiff in a habeas corpus action, *Sutton* v. *Warden*, Docket No. 266429 [sic], challenging the legality of my sentence.

2. In court on March 15, 1982, the Assistant State's Attorney offered to accept a withdrawal of my guilty plea and proceed with a new trial.

3. My attorney for the habeas corpus action, Brian W. Smith of Legal Assistance to Prisoners, has explained to me that if I proceed with a new trial there is a distinct possibility that I may receive a term of imprisonment substantially longer than the sentence originally imposed.

4. I fully understand the risk involved, but have nevertheless decided to withdraw my guilty plea and proceed with a new trial.

/s/Ronald G. Sutton
Ronald G. Sutton

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
ss Somers
COUNTY OF TOLLAND

Personally appeared before me Ronald G. Sutton, signer of the foregoing affidavit, and, being first duly sworn, declared such Affidavit to be his free act and deed, this 19th day of March, 1982.

/s/Brian W. Smith
Brian W. Smith
Commissioner of the
Superior Court"

[12] The memorandum of decision of the habeas court, *N. O'Neill, J.*, was the following:

"NO. 266428 : SUPERIOR COURT
RONALD G. SUTTON : JUDICIAL DISTRICT
VS. : OF HARTFORD/NEW
: BRITAIN AT HARTFORD
WARDEN, STATE PRISON : APRIL 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION
RE: HABEAS CORPUS

With the knowing consent of both parties the court finds that petitioner's sentences of August 14, 1981 are void and that his continued imprisonment is illegal.

It is ordered that petitioner be released and that a new trial be had promptly if the state wishes to prosecute.

s/s N. O'Neill, J.
N. O'Neil;"

tences of August 14, 1981 are *void* . . . ." (Emphasis added.) There was no appeal from that judgment.

The defendant thereafter pleaded not guilty and elected a trial by jury. The six day jury trial took place in September and October, 1982, on the same three charges to which he had earlier pleaded guilty under the *Alford* doctrine. At trial a number of witnesses testified, including the victim, her mother, her father, her sister and the defendant.[13] The jury returned and the court, *Mulvey, J.*, on October 4, 1982, accepted their verdict of guilty on each of the three counts on October 4, 1982. The court imposed an effective sentence of not less than sixteen years and not more than thirty-one years.[14]

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[13] At the trial the defendant presented evidence, inter alia, on his defense of alibi.

[14] At sentencing, the state had asked, inter alia, the court "that on each of the three counts, that a maximum sentence be imposed, to run consecutively . . . [that] [h]e wanted his day in court. He had his day in court, and now it's time for his past record to catch up with him . . . it's the State's request, if the Court please, that sentences be imposed not concurrently but consecutively, and that the maximum be imposed."

Counsel for the defendant said, inter alia, that he did not feel it was "appropriate for the court to impose maximum penalties, and certainly not consecutive ones on this count [sic] . . ." arguing that the kidnapping charge was "incidental to the assault. . . ." Directing the court's attention to the "prior plea arrangement . . . for a term of seven to twelve years . . ." that the defendant having "opted to vacate that sentence, even though he was scheduled for a parole hearing fairly soon; and I don't think that having exercised those rights, that that would warrant the imposition of a maximum sentence. So, I would ask the Court to consider sentencing in the area of eight to sixteen years, with the sentences running concurrently . . . ."

The defendant also addressed the court and after commenting on the jury trial said: "Also, since I was sentenced illegally at the first trial, and the Prosecutor or my attorney made no attempt to correct it, and the Judge surely knew it was an illegal sentence, I believe if I am sentenced to a longer term, it is only to punish me for asking for what is guaranteed me by both the State and Federal Constitution, and by this State Statutes. Not once was I offered the chance to have my illegal sentence corrected without risk-

On appeal, the defendant argues that the imposition of a more severe sentence on October 5, 1982, following his reconviction after his successful attack on his first conviction does not comport with the requirements of *North Carolina* v. *Pearce,* supra, and has deprived him of his liberty without due process of law. In support of this contention the defendant argues that this case "is, for all practical purposes, indistinguishable from *Simpson* v. *Rice,*" the companion case of *Pearce,* decided sub nom *North Carolina* v. *Pearce,* and that the facts of *Simpson* "are particularly important in the context of the instant case." In arguing that *Pearce*

ing a longer sentence. I still maintain I am innocent, but I am at the mercy of the Court. Thank you."

The state then said: "Your Honor, there was a waiver signed by him, which is of record, and it's in the file, in which he was advised, by his counsel who represented him on a Writ of Habeas Corpus, that we were not going to oppose the vacation of the sentence—the vacating of the sentence if it were understood, clearly and concisely, that we were to go to trial with a fresh slate, and there is a record in there, a letter from the Legal Assistant to Prisoners, in which it states 'I spoke with Mr. Sutton—' I am quoting from the two opening paragraphs; counsel has a copy of this; 'I spoke with Mr. Sutton on March 19th, 1982. I warned that he would open himself up to maximum sentences for the crimes charged, and that there is a possibility of receiving a term of imprisonment substantially longer than the original sentence. Mr. Sutton indicated a desire, to me, to go forward with a new trial. Please enclose his affidavit to that effect.' So, again, we have this man standing up here with the unmitigated gall of saying that that sentence has a motion, or something—in any event, the affidavit that he signed, if your Honor please, and a Commissioner of the Superior Court took his oath—'My attorney for the Writ of Habeas Corpus, Bryan W. Smith, Legal Assistant for the Prisoners, has explained to me if I proceed with a new trial, there is a distinct possibility that I may receive a new term of imprisonment substantially longer than the sentence originally imposed; but I fully understand the risk, but decided to go forward with the plea.' I also stated, on March 15th, 'The Assistant State's Attorney, acting under my authority,' if your Honor please, 'offered to accept a withdrawal of his guilty plea, and proceed with a new trial.' I have always felt that that plea was inadequate. The fact was that the plea—the other sentence was inadequate. The only reason it was even allowed to go through was to save that family from the very torture that they had here. Now, he has had his day in court. He has made that family testify. There is nothing that recommends a lighter sentence."

controls, the defendant maintains that the *Pearce* rule applies to defendants who have successfully attacked convictions based on guilty pleas as well as to defendants who have successfully attacked illegal sentences. He also maintains that he has not waived his due process rights. On the other hand, the state's contention, broadly stated, is that: "Once A Defendant Knowingly and Voluntarily Withdraws[15] His Plea Of Guilty And Thus Subjects Himself, His Victims, And Witnesses To Exhaustive Examination During The Subsequent Criminal Trial . . . That Defendant [cannot] Then Resurrect The Voided Plea In His Effort To Avoid The Consequences Of The Lawful Sentence Which The Trial Court Based Upon Evidence Adduced At The Criminal Trial." (Footnote added.) We find error and remand.

Some discussion of *Pearce* and *Rice*, which were habeas corpus proceedings brought by state prisoners, is required for our analysis. The United States Supreme Court articulated the question presented by both of these cases as follows: "When at the behest of the defendant a criminal conviction has been set aside and a new trial ordered, to what extent does the Constitution limit the imposition of a harsher sentence after conviction upon retrial?" *North Carolina* v. *Pearce*, supra, 713.

In *Pearce*, the prisoner had been convicted in a North Carolina court of assault with intent to commit rape and sentenced to prison for a term of twelve to fifteen

[15] The defendant, in his reply brief, argues it is erroneous for the state to say that the defendant withdrew his plea. "Rather, [he argues] he pleaded guilty, received a sentence of unquestioned illegality, and subsequently filed a habeas corpus action claiming that he was illegally confined. . . . The writ was granted . . . because his sentence, and consequently the plea that had been negotiated on the basis of that sentence, [was] illegal. It is this successful pursuit of a collateral remedy that brings this case squarely within the ambit of *North Carolina* v. *Pearce*, 395 U.S. 711 [89 S. Ct. 2072, 23 L. Ed. 2d 656] (1969). *See id.* at 724."

years. Several years later, he instituted a state post-conviction proceeding which culminated in the reversal of his conviction by the North Carolina Supreme Court on the ground that an involuntary confession had been admitted unconstitutionally as evidence against him. He was thereafter retried, convicted and sentenced by the trial judge to an eight year prison term, which, "when added to the time Pearce had already spent in prison, the parties agreed amounted to a longer total sentence than that originally imposed." Id. That conviction and sentence were affirmed on appeal to the North Carolina Supreme Court. He then began habeas corpus proceedings in a federal district court, which held that "the longer sentence imposed upon retrial was 'unconstitutional and void.' " Id., 714.

In the companion case, Rice had pleaded guilty in an Alabama court to four separate charges of second degree burglary and was sentenced to prison terms aggregating ten years. Two and one-half years later, the judgments were set aside in a state coram nobis proceeding on the ground that Rice had not been accorded his constitutional right to counsel. Thereafter, he was retried on three of the charges, convicted and sentenced to prison terms aggregating twenty-five years. On his resentencing he was not given any credit for the time that he had spent in prison on the original judgments. Rice then initiated habeas corpus proceedings in a federal district court "alleging that the state trial court had acted unconstitutionally in failing to give him credit for the time he had already served in prison, and in imposing grossly harsher sentences upon retrial." Id., 714–15. The federal court agreed with both of Rice's claims.

The United States Supreme Court was thus faced with "two related but analytically separate issues" in *Pearce* and *Rice*. Id., 715. The broader one, presented by *Pearce*, concerned "the constitutional [limitation]

upon the imposition of a more severe punishment after conviction for the same offense upon retrial"; id., 715–16; the more limited issue presented by *Rice* was "whether, in computing the new sentence, the Constitution requires that credit must be given for that part of the original sentence already served."[16] Id., 716. On the issue in *Rice*, the court held that "the constitutional guarantee against multiple punishments for the same offense absolutely requires that punishment already exacted must be fully 'credited' in imposing sentence upon a new conviction for the same offense." Id., 718–19. The court then addressed "the broader problem of what constitutional limitations there may be upon the general power of a judge to impose upon reconviction a longer prison sentence than the defendant originally received." Id., 719. On that issue, the court held, "that neither the double jeopardy provision nor the Equal Protection Clause imposes an absolute bar to a more severe sentence upon reconviction. A trial judge is not constitutionally precluded, in other words, from imposing a new sentence, whether greater or less than the original sentence, in the light of events subsequent to the first trial that may have thrown new light upon the defendant's 'life, health, habits, conduct, and mental and moral propensities.' *Williams* v. *New York*, 337 U.S. 241, 245 [69 S. Ct. 1079, 1082, 93 L. Ed. 1337 (1949)]. Such information may come to the judge's attention from evidence adduced at the second trial itself, from a new presentence investigation, from the defendant's prison record, or possibly from other sources." Id., 723. However, after approving of "[t]he freedom of a sentencing judge to consider the defendant's conduct subsequent to the first conviction in imposing a new sentence," the *Pearce* court hastened to point out that "[t]o say that there exists no abso-

[16] Pearce had been given credit for time previously served. *North Carolina* v. *Pearce*, 395 U.S. 711, 716 n.6, 719 n.14, 89 S. Ct. 2072, 23 L. Ed. 2d 656 (1969).

lute constitutional bar to the imposition of a more severe sentence upon retrial is not, however, to end the inquiry. There remains for consideration the impact of the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment." Id.

The *Pearce* court declared that it would be "a flagrant violation" of the fourteenth amendment for a state trial judge to follow an "announced practice of imposing a heavier sentence upon every reconvicted defendant for the explicit purpose of punishing the defendant for his having succeeded in getting his original conviction set aside." Id., 723–24. The "very threat inherent in the existence of such a punitive policy would," *Pearce* said, "with respect to those still in prison, serve to 'chill the exercise of basic constitutional rights.' " (Citations omitted.) Id., 724. A defendant's due process rights would therefore be violated where such punishment is imposed whether the earlier conviction has been set aside because of constitutional error or where a defendant has "successfully pursued a statutory right of appeal or collateral remedy." Id.

The *Pearce* court then announced its rule on the due process claims: "Due process of law, then, *requires* that vindictiveness against a defendant for having successfully attacked his first conviction must play no part in the sentence he receives after a new trial." (Emphasis added.) Id., 725. Both Pearce and Rice had claimed that the trial courts had imposed the heavier sentences to punish them for their challenges of their original convictions. The majority in *Pearce*, however, said that it was not necessary to decide whether the trial judges had in fact acted vindictively. Because "the fear of such vindictiveness may unconstitutionally deter a defendant's exercise of the right to appeal or collaterally attack his first conviction, due process *also requires*

that a defendant be freed of the apprehension of such a retaliatory motivation on the part of the sentencing judge." (Emphasis added.) Id.

Therefore, the *Pearce* court determined that "to assure the absence of such a motivation" it "was necessary to impose upon the resentencing judge what was later described as 'a prophylactic limitation.' " 3 LaFave & Israel, Criminal Procedure (1984) § 26.1 (c), p. 176; see *Michigan* v. *Payne*, 412 U.S. 47, 51, 93 S. Ct. 1966, 36 L. Ed. 2d 736 (1973).[17] "In order to assure the absence of such a motivation, we have concluded that whenever a judge imposes a more severe sentence upon a defendant after a new trial, the reasons for his doing so must affirmatively appear. Those reasons must be based upon objective information concerning identifiable conduct on the part of the defendant occurring after the time of the original sentencing proceeding. And the factual data upon which the increased sentence is based must be made part of the record, so that the constitutional legitimacy of the increased sentence may be fully reviewed on appeal." *North Carolina* v. *Pearce*, supra, 726. This limitation recognizes that "[t]o punish a person because he has done what the law plainly allows him to do is a due process violation 'of the most basic sort.' " *United States* v. *Goodwin*, 457 U.S. 368, 372, 102 S. Ct. 2485, 73 L. Ed. 2d 74 (1982), quoting *Bordenkircher* v. *Hayes*, 434 U.S. 357, 363, 98 S. Ct. 663, 54 L. Ed. 2d 604, reh. denied, 435 U.S. 918, 98 S. Ct. 1477, 55 L. Ed. 2d 511 (1978); see *Chaffin* v.

[17] In *Payne*, the United States Supreme Court said that "[t]he *Pearce* restrictions serve to ensure that resentencing decisions will not be based on improper considerations, such as a judge's unarticulated resentment at having been reversed on appeal, or his subjective institutional interest in discouraging meritless appeals." *Michigan* v. *Payne*, 412 U.S. 47, 52-53, 93 S. Ct. 1966, 36 L. Ed. 2d 736 (1973). The judge who presided at the defendant Sutton's jury trial was, however, not the same judge who had accepted the defendant's *Alford* plea. See *Colten* v. *Kentucky*, 407 U.S. 104, 116-17, 92 S. Ct. 1953, 32 L. Ed. 2d 584 (1972).

Stynchcombe, 412 U.S. 17, 32-33 n.20, 93 S. Ct. 1977, 36 L. Ed. 2d 714 (1973). The federal due process clause, however, "is not offended by all possibilities of increased punishment upon retrial after appeal, but only by those that pose a realistic likelihood of 'vindictiveness.' " *Blackledge* v. *Perry*, 417 U.S. 21, 27, 94 S. Ct. 2098, 40 L. Ed. 2d 628 (1974); *United States* v. *Goodwin*, supra, 375. An appellant who has been successful on appeal in obtaining a reversal of his conviction cannot complain that he be subjected to a proper reappraisal of sentencing standards on remand. *People* v. *Serrato*, 9 Cal. 3d 753, 764, 512 P.2d 289, 109 Cal. Rptr. 65 (1973); *People* v. *Hickey*, 109 Cal. App. 3d 426, 436, 167 Cal. Rptr. 256 (1980).

The defendant argues that the *Pearce* rule applies to defendants who have successfully attacked convictions based on guilty pleas as well as to those based on illegal sentences. We have no quarrel with that contention as a general proposition but are mindful that post-*Pearce* pronouncements by the United States Supreme Court, as we have pointed out, state that due process is not an absolute bar to a higher sentence. We conclude that the teachings of *Pearce* and its progeny, which were clearly implicated in the sentencing of October 5, 1982, merited attention. In this context, we cannot accept the state's assertion in its brief that, because the August 14, 1981 sentence "Was Void At The Defendant's Request, The Trial Court Had *Unrestricted* Ability To Sentence The Defendant To Any Lawful Sentence." (Emphasis added.)

Our disposition of this case must also consider another facet of the resentencing proceeding that we hereinafter direct. That involves the fact that the sentence imposed on October 5, 1982, after the defendant's jury trial, was itself illegal, in the sense that, as the defendant in his brief indicates, it did not comport with statutory authority. The sentences on the first and sec-

ond counts of the information were indeterminate sentences while the sentence imposed on the third count was a definite sentence. The minimum term of sixteen years is more than one-half the maximum term of thirty-one years in violation of General Statutes § 53a-35 (c) (2).[18] This is so because the one year sentence for threatening was added to both the maximum and minimum terms and not just to the minimum.[19]

The defendant further argues that he "has already served his new minimum term of imprisonment, and, under these circumstances, only the *19* year increase in his maximum term presents a case and controversy for this Court to decide."[20] (Emphasis added.) The sentence imposed on October 5, 1982, was itself illegal because it was not imposed in accordance with statutory authority. The defendant himself has brought this to our attention in his brief. Despite his assertion that we are limited to reviewing "only the 19 year increase in his maximum term," we do not agree that the matter of the minimum term is academic, and on remand the illegality of the sentence for its statutory nonconformity should be addressed. See General Statutes

[18] See footnote 8, supra.

[19] See *State* v. *Gordon*, 197 Conn. 413, A.2d (1985).

[20] This "19 year increase" assertion fairly extrapolates to the defendant's argument that his resentencing should have carried only a 12 year maximum as did the original sentence. It is arguably difficult to understand how the defendant can contend that if successful on this appeal, he should be entitled, on resentencing, to receive a sentence of not less than six years and not more than twelve years when such a sentence was neither "bargained for" nor imposed, and when his habeas corpus proceeding not only voided a sentence of not less than seven years and not more than twelve years which was statutorily illegal but also voided "his continued imprisonment."

On the resentencing we order below, we emphasize that both the teachings of *Pearce* and our sentencing statutes must be strictly observed. It goes without saying that the resentencing we order today must, of course, give the defendant credit for all time served since his original sentencing of August 14, 1981. *North Carolina* v. *Pearce*, 395 U.S. 711, 716 n.6, 89 S. Ct. 2072, 23 L. Ed. 2d 656 (1969).

§§ 53a-35 (c) (2), 53a-37. An appellant, who has been successful on appeal or has an illegal sentence vacated, should not be heard to assert that "he should not be subjected to a proper reappraisal of statutory sentencing standards upon remand." *People* v. *Hickey*, supra, 436.

A remand for resentencing is also necessary because of *Pearce*. At that resentencing hearing, the teaching of *Pearce* requires that the defendant's due process rights must be strictly observed. "The goal of the *Pearce* rule, that apprehension of vindictiveness be allayed, does not permit a defendant to be left to speculate as to the true reason for an increased sentence." *Jacobs* v. *Redman*, 616 F.2d 1251, 1259 (3d Cir.), cert. denied, 446 U.S. 944, 100 S. Ct. 2170, 64 L. Ed. 2d 799 (1980). This is a matter of federal constitutional law.

The record of the remarks[21] of the trial judge in sentencing this defendant after the jury verdict of guilty does not affirmatively disclose any "factual data," that

[21] At the sentencing, on October 5, 1982, the trial court, after a colloquy with counsel concerning the application of a United States Supreme Court case cited in support of defense counsel's argument that the sentences to be imposed on the first and second counts should be concurrent and not consecutive, said:

"I, of course, sat through this trial, and listened to what took place here, and it was atrocious. The thing that happened to this little girl is a horrible thing, and she had ~~to~~ come in here and testify, as did her entire family: mother, father, and sister, and they did; and I suppose it will be a long time before this little girl is able to put it out of her mind as to what happened to her on that day.

"I understand that the accused could do as he did, in asking that the prior matter be vacated, and that he be allowed to proceed to trial, and that, of course, was accorded him, and he has had his trial; and I have no question in my mind as to the verdict being a proper one that the jury handed down late yesterday afternoon. I am aware of the accused's record. It's a record that involves violence; it involves knives; it involves sex. It hasn't improved with age, as sometimes occurs.

And so, under those circumstances, I will impose a sentence that I think is a proper one, taking all those things into consideration. . . ."

are legitimate *Pearce* reasons for the increased sentence. Such reasons must be "based upon objective information concerning identifiable conduct on the part of the defendant occurring after the time of the original sentencing proceeding [on August 14, 1981]." *North Carolina* v. *Pearce*, supra, 726; *Blackledge* v. *Perry*, supra; *Robinson* v. *Scully*, 690 F.2d 21, 24 (1982). "If any doubt remained that the sentencing judge must himself articulate the basis for the harsher sentence, such doubt was dispelled by the Court's interpretation of *Pearce* in *Blackledge* v. *Perry*, 417 U.S. 21, 25–26, 94 S. Ct. 2098, 2101, 40 L. Ed. 2d 628 (1974)." *United States* v. *Tucker*, 581 F.2d 602, 606 (7th Cir. 1978). The affirmative disclosure required by *Pearce* and its progeny to ensure the "constitutional legitimacy" of the increased sentence is not present in the record. Despite a careful examination of the trial court's remarks at the resentencing of October 5, 1982, we cannot find that the record demonstrates that the increased sentences were based on objective information concerning identifiable conduct occurring subsequent to the original sentencing in accordance with *Pearce*. The record does not affirmatively disclose that this was done. The resentencing judge noted that he had "sat through this trial, and listened to what took place here, and it was atrocious." This, together with his observation that the victim, her mother, her father and her sister "had to come in here and testify," does not comport with *Pearce* and its progeny, which require that the factual basis for the higher sentence, if not the literal reasons, "affirmatively appear" in the record.

It is fair to say that a full trial after an earlier proceeding setting aside the original sentence can be a subsequent event under *Pearce* that may, in a given case, supply data that may lend support to an increased sentence. See, e.g., *United States* v. *Hayes*, 676 F.2d 1359,

1365 (11th Cir.), cert. denied, 459 U.S. 1040, 103 S. Ct. 455, 74 L. Ed. 2d 608 (1982); *United States* v. *Cunningham*, 529 F.2d 884 (6th Cir. 1976); *State* v. *Taylor*, 22 Wash. App. 308, 589 P.2d 1250, cert. denied, 92 Wash. 2d 1013 (1979); *State* v. *Stubbendick*, 110 Wis. 2d 693, 329 N.W.2d 399 (1983). Evidence introduced for the first time at a later trial has been suggested to constitute a basis for data regarding a defendant's conduct occurring after the first sentencing and consonant with *Pearce* where the record so discloses that under *Pearce* standards. See *United States* v. *Hayes*, supra; *United States* v. *Cunningham*, supra, 889. Of course, "amplified knowledge" about the defendant's criminal activity which may have occurred before the sentencing of August 14, 1981, but known to the earlier sentencing judge cannot serve as a basis for an increased sentence under *Pearce*. See *United States* v. *Gilliss*, 645 F.2d 1269, 1284 (8th Cir. 1981); *Barnes* v. *United States*, 419 F.2d 753 (D.C. Cir. 1969); *State* v. *Stubbendick*, supra; cf. *United States* v. *Grayson*, 438 U.S. 41, 98 S. Ct. 2610, 57 L. Ed. 2d 582 (1978) (perjury by defendant will support an increased sentence); *United States* v. *Cunningham*, supra, 889. In *United States* v. *Grayson*, supra, the United States Supreme Court said: "A defendant's truthfulness or mendacity while testifying on his own behalf, almost without exception, has been deemed probative of his attitudes toward society and prospects for rehabilitation and hence relevant to sentencing." Id., 51.

In light of the foregoing, we decide today to remand this case for resentencing in accordance with this opinion. On remand the sentencing judge will consider both the constitutional due process protection developed in *North Carolina* v. *Pearce* and its progeny and the statutory requirements for sentencing.

There is error, the sentence of October 5, 1982, is set aside, and the matter is remanded to the trial court for resentencing not inconsistent with this opinion.

In this opinion DANNEHY, SANTANIELLO and CALLAHAN, Js., concurred.

PETERS, C. J., concurring. I agree with that part of the majority opinion which orders the trial court to hold a new hearing for the resentencing of the defendant. I write separately to emphasize that *North Carolina* v. *Pearce*, 395 U.S. 711, 89 S. Ct. 2072, 23 L. Ed. 2d 656 (1969), imposes important constitutional constraints upon the scope of such a hearing.

Unless and until the United States Supreme Court decides to retreat from its holding in *Pearce*, we are bound to follow its mandate. To guard against the risk of retaliatory vindictiveness to punish a defendant's exercise of his right to a retrial, and to avoid the problems of proof that inhere in a factual demonstration of improper motivation, *Pearce* adopts a prophylactic rule. That rule purposely limits the circumstances under which a defendant, on a new trial, can receive a sentence more severe than that which was imposed upon him during an earlier prosecution for the same crime. The majority opinion recognizes that *Pearce* requires the sentencing judge to place on the record his reasons for imposing the more severe sentence. The majority opinion acknowledges that *Pearce* confines constitutionally permissible reasons for a more severe sentence to "identifiable conduct on the part of the defendant occurring after the time of the original sentencing proceeding." *North Carolina* v. *Pearce*, supra, 726.

I am troubled, however, by the intimations in the majority opinion that *Pearce* might allow the sentencing judge in making an affirmative record to rely, in any way, on the fact that the defendant had committed

an atrocious crime or that his retrial had compelled the victim and members of her family to testify. None of that constitutes "conduct on the part of the defendant occurring after the time of the original sentencing proceeding." Nor do I believe that "a full trial after an earlier proceedings setting aside the original sentence can itself be a subsequent event under *Pearce*" unless, during the retrial, the defendant has demonstrably committed perjury. *United States* v. *Grayson*, 438 U.S. 41, 51, 98 S. Ct. 2610, 57 L. Ed. 2d 582 (1978), on which the majority relies, does not signal a retreat from *Pearce*, because *Grayson* did not involve a reprosecution but concerned only the propriety of an enhanced sentence in a single trial. Indeed, *Grayson* does not cite *Pearce*. I urge the trial judge, on resentencing, to bear in mind that *Pearce* limits his inquiry to a search for objective facts about identifiable conduct of the defendant subsequent to his original sentencing. See *United States* v. *Gilliss*, 645 F.2d 1269, 1283–84 (8th Cir. 1981); *United States* v. *Tucker*, 581 F.2d 602, 604–607 (7th Cir. 1978); *United States* v. *Floyd*, 519 F.2d 1031, 1033–35 (5th Cir. 1975).

Accordingly, I concur.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT *v.* TODD C. MORRILL (11343)

PETERS, C. J., HEALEY, SHEA, SANTANIELLO and CALLAHAN, Js.

Convicted, following a jury trial, of the crime of murder, the defendant appealed. *Held:*

1. The evidence presented at trial was sufficient to support the guilty verdict returned by the jury.
2. The defendant's claims that the trial court erred in denying his motions to quash certain subpoenas issued by the state and to dismiss the grand jury indictment against him were without merit.
3. This court could not, under the circumstances here, conclude that the thirteen month delay between the discovery of the murder and the indictment of the defendant constituted a denial of his right to due process of law.

EDITOR'S NOTE

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Supreme Court, U.S.
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ORIGINAL

NO. 85-816

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

STATE OF CONNECTICUT,
Petitioner

v.

RONALD SUTTON,
Respondent.

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO

THE SUPREME COURT OF CONNECTICUT

BRIEF IN OPPOSITION

JON C. BLUE
Chief Public Defender Office
121 Elm Street
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 789-7477
Counsel for Respondent

November 22, 1985

QUESTION PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

Did the imposition of a more severe sentence on Respondent following his reconviction after he had successfully challenged his first conviction fail to comport with the requirements of North Carolina v. Pearce, 395 U.S. 711 (1969), and deprive him of liberty without due process of law in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States?

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NO. 85-816

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1985

STATE OF CONNECTICUT,
Petitioner,

v.

RONALD SUTTON,
Respondent.

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO

THE SUPREME COURT OF CONNECTICUT

BRIEF IN OPPOSITION

OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the Supreme Court of Connecticut is reported as State v. Sutton, 197 Conn. 485, 498 A.2d 65 (1985). The previous opinion of the Superior Court of Connecticut vacating Respondent's initial conviction and sentence, Sutton v. Warden, No. 266428 (Hartford J.D. April 28, 1982), is unreported but is reprinted in full in the opinion of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, 197 Conn. at 493 n.12, and can be found in the Appendix to the Petition at 10A n.12.

JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of this Court, set forth in the Petition, is conceded by Respondent.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED

In addition to the constitutional provisions set forth in the Petition, this case involves Conn. Gen. Stat. §53a-35 (1979), which provides as follows:

> Sec. 53a-35. Imprisonment for felony: Indeterminate; maximum and minimum sentences. (a) A sentence of imprisonment for a felony shall be an indeterminate sentence, except as provided in subsection (d). When such a sentence is imposed, the court shall impose a maximum term in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) and the minimum term shall be as provided in subsection (c) or (d).
>
> (b) The maximum term of an indeterminate sentence shall be fixed by the court and specified in the sentence as follows: (1) For a class A felony, life imprisonment; (2) for a class B felony, a term not to exceed twenty years; (3) for a class C felony, a term not to exceed ten years; (4) for a class D felony, a term not to exceed five years; (5) for an unclassified felony, a term in accordance with the sentence specified in the section of the general statutes that defines the crime; and (6) for a capital felony, life imprisonment unless a sentence of death is imposed in accordance with section 53a-46a.
>
> (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) the minimum term of an indeterminate sentence shall be fixed by the court and specified in the sentence as follows: (1) For a class A felony, the minimum term shall not be less than ten nor more than twenty-five years; (2) for a class B, C or D felony the court may fix a minimum term of not less than one year nor more than one-half of the maximum term imposed, except that (A) where the maximum is less than three years the minimum term may be more than one-half the maximum term imposed or (B) when a person is found guilty under section 53a-59(a)(1), section 53a-59a, 53a-101(a)(1) or 53a-134(a)(2), the minimum term shall be not less than five years and such sentence shall not be suspended or reduced, or when a person is found guilty under section 53a-60c, the minimum term shall be not less than three years and such sentence shall not be suspended or reduced, or when a person is found guilty under section 53a-60b, the minimum term shall be not less than two years and such sentence shall not be suspended or reduced; (3) for an unclassified felony, a term in accordance with the sentence specified in the section of the general statutes that defines the crime.
>
> (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (c), except as provided in subdivision (2) of said subsection (c), when a person is sentenced for a class C or D felony or for an unclassified felony, the maximum sentence for which does not exceed ten years, the court may impose a definite sentence of imprisonment

and fix a term of one year or less; except when a person is found guilty under sections 53a-55a, 53a-60a, 53a-70a, 53a-72b, 53a-92a, 53a-94a, 53a-102a and 53a-103a, the court shall not fix a term of less than one year.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

I. THE INITIAL PLEA AND SENTENCE

This case turns upon a somewhat complicated set of facts. A proper understanding of the decision of the Supreme Court of Connecticut requires a considerably more detailed statement of the case than that contained in the Petition.

On October 3, 1979, Petitioner filed an information in the Superior Court of Connecticut charging Respondent with the crimes of sexual assault in the first degree, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §53a-70(a) (1979); kidnapping in the second degree, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §53a-94(a) (1979); and threatening, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §53a-62(a)(1) (1979). (R.1.)[1] On July 7, 1981, Respondent pleaded guilty to all counts under the doctrine of North Carolina v. Alford, 400 U.S. 25 (1970). Prior to the trial court's acceptance of the plea, the State's Attorney recited the factual basis for the plea, describing the incident at length and setting forth the array of corroborative testimony that the State would have presented at trial. (7/7/81 T.5-19.) The court advised Respondent that he was "exposed to a period of incarceration that could be in the area of not less than 20 and no more than 40 years." When Respondent responded that he so understood, the court accepted the plea. The State's Attorney then represented that in his opinion, "a fair sentence in this case would be not less than eight nor more than sixteen years," but stated, "I understand the Court has dictated to the contrary to some degree." The court acknowledged that, in the absence of subse-

1/ "R." stands for the printed record on appeal to the Supreme Court of Connecticut. "T." stands for the trial court transcript.

quent misconduct by the Defendant, it would impose a sentence of 7 to 12 years. It stated that it had taken "into consideration" the fact that it did not want to put the complaining witness "through the trauma of coming into court and testifying." A presentence investigation was ordered. (7/7/81 T.23-26).

A Presentence Investigation Report was filed on August 11, 1981. It described the crime in detail, noted that Respondent flatly denied having committed it, and detailed Respondent's previous criminal record, which included three prior felony convictions. At the sentencing hearing, on August 14, 1981, Petitioner requested the maximum sentence of 20 to 40 years. The court indicated that it had reviewed the presentence report and was well aware of the facts of the case and Respondent's prior background. It then imposed a total effective sentence of 7 to 12 years. (8/14/81 T.2-5).

II. THE HABEAS CORPUS ACTION

On November 30, 1981, Respondent filed a habeas corpus action, Sutton v. Warden, No. 266428 (Hartford S.C.), alleging that he was illegally confined because the minimum term of his sentence was more than one-half of the maximum term, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. §53a-35(c)(2) (1979). He asked that his sentence be declared null and void.

At a hearing on March 15, 1982, Petitioner argued that a court reviewing a petition for a writ of habeas corpus "does not have the authority to change sentences, and this matter should be referred to sentence review or [Respondent] should be allowed to withdraw his plea, and we start from round one again." Respondent stated that a withdrawal of his plea would be "fine" with him, and Petitioner represented that it would be "delighted" with this outcome. The court and both counsel respectively ad-

vised Respondent, however, that if he were reconvicted he faced the possibility of a more severe sentence, and the court adjourned the hearing until it received written confirmation of the Respondent's wishes. (3/15/82 T.2-9.)

On April 28, 1982, having been informed that Respondent did indeed wish to withdraw his plea, the court filed a Memorandum of Decision finding that Respondent's sentences "are void and that his continued imprisonment is illegal." It ordered that Respondent "be released and that a new trial be had promptly if the state wishes to prosecute." See Petition at 10A n.12.

III. THE SUBSEQUENT TRIAL AND SENTENCE

Respondent elected to be tried by a jury. At the trial, the complaining witness, who was now 18 years of age, described the crime and identified Respondent as her assailant. Her testimony did not significantly vary from the description of the crime that Petitioner had originally given in setting forth the factual basis for Respondent's guilty plea on July 7, 1981. (T.6-13; 7/7/81 T.5-8.) Petitioner presented an array of evidence corroborating both the complaining witness's description of the crime and her identification of Respondent as her assailant. Respondent's defense essentially consisted of his own testimony that he had been involved in a traffic accident at another location at the time of the crime and expert toxicological testimony that blood and seminal stains found on a tampon at the scene of the crime were of a different type (Group O) than the blood groups of Respondent and the complaining witness. (Both were Type A.) On October 4, 1982, the jury found Respondent guilty as charged.

The sentencing hearing was held on October 5, 1982. No new presentence report having been prepared, the parties and the court relied on the report that had been prepared for the

original sentencing hearing on August 14, 1981. Petitioner additionally relied on a psychiatric report that had been prepared for a competency hearing held prior to Respondent's original plea of guilty. Petitioner concluded that Respondent had "wanted his day in court. He had his day in court, and now it's time for his past record to catch up with him." It recommended that "on each of the three counts, that a maximum sentence be imposed, to run consecutively." It at no point alleged that Respondent had engaged in any misconduct occurring after the time of the original sentencing proceeding. (10/5/82 T.2-4).

Respondent's attorney reminded the court that Respondent had originally been sentenced to a term of 7 to 12 years and argued that he should not be penalized for the exercise of his constitutional rights. (10/15/82 T.6.) Respondent, on allocution, stated that,

> [S]ince I was sentenced illegally at the first trial, and the Prosecutor or my attorney made no attempt to correct it, and the Judge surely knew it was an illegal sentence, I believe if I am sentenced to a longer term, it is only to punish me for asking what is guaranteed me by both the State and Federal Constitution, and by this State Statutes. Not once was I offered the chance to have my illegal sentence corrected without risking a longer sentence.

(10/5/82 T.7.)

Petitioner responded that Respondent had been duly warned that if he chose to vacate his former plea and sentence he faced the possibility of a more severe sentence and criticized what it termed the "unmitigated gall" of Respondent's assertion that he could not receive a more severe sentence. (10/5/82 T.8.)

The court stated that,

> I, of course, sat through this trial, and listened to what took place here, and it was atrocious. The thing that happened to this little girl is a horrible thing, and she had to come in here and testify, as did her entire family; mother, father, and sister, and they did; and I suppose it will be a long time before this little girl is able to put it out of her mind as to what happened to her on that day.

> I understand that the accused could do as he did, in asking that the prior matter be vacated, and that he be allowed to proceed to trial, and that, of course, was accorded him, and he has had his trial ...

(10/15/82 T.12.) It then alluded to Respondent's prior criminal record and imposed a total effective sentence of 16 to 31 years. It at no point indicated that Respondent had engaged in any misconduct occurring after the time of the original sentencing proceeding. (R.6; 10/15/82 T.13.)

IV. THE DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF CONNECTICUT

Respondent filed a timely appeal to the Supreme Court of Connecticut. On September 10, 1985, the Supreme Court of Connecticut found error and remanded the case to the trial court for resentencing. State v. Sutton, supra. The court found that the sentence imposed on October 5, 1982, violated both statutory and constitutional commands. The statutory violation is virtually identical to the defect in Respondent's initial sentence. The minimum term is more than one-half of the maximum term. See 197 Conn. at 501-02; Petition at 18A-19A. The constitutional violation occurred because, when the second sentence was imposed, the trial court did not articulate any factual basis for the imposition of an increased sentence. 197 Conn. at 503-04; Petition at 20A-21A. Consequently, the case was "remanded to the trial court for resentencing not inconsistent with [the] opinion."

On November 12, 1985, Petitioner filed its Petition in this Court seeking review.

REASONS FOR DENYING THE WRIT

I. THE PETITION WAS NOT TIMELY FILED.

The final judgment of the Supreme Court of Connecticut was entered on September 10, 1985. Petition at 2. Sup. Ct. R. 20.1

provides that, "A petition for writ of certiorari to review the judgment in a criminal case of a state court of last resort ... shall be deemed in time when it is filed with the Clerk within 60 days after the entry of such judgment." The time prescribed for filing the Petition in the instant case expired on Saturday, November 9, 1985, a day on which the office of the Clerk was open. See Sup. Ct. R. 1.2. The Petition was not, however, filed until November 12, 1985. No application for extension of time has ever been filed.

Although this untimely filing does not deprive the Court of jurisdiction to hear the case, the time limit prescribed by Sup. Ct. R. 20.1 is not a complete nullity and should not be waived in the absence of good cause. This Court's "discretion must be exercised sparingly, and only when an adequate reason exists to excuse noncompliance with [its] Rules." Schacht v. United States, 398 U.S. 58, 69 (1970) (Harlan, J., concurring). In this case, unlike Schacht, Petitioner has advanced no good reason for failing to meet this Court's time requirements. The writ should be denied on this ground alone.

II. THE DECISION BELOW WAS BASED ON AN ADEQUATE AND INDEPENDENT STATE GROUND.

The Supreme Court of Connecticut carefully explained that its decision was compelled by state statutory, as well as federal constitutional, law.

> [T]he sentence imposed on October 5, 1982, after [Respondent's] jury trial, was itself illegal, in the sense that ... it did not comport with statutory authority. The sentences on the first and second counts of the information were indeterminate sentences while the sentence imposed on the third count was a definite sentence. The minimum term of sixteen years is more than one-half the maximum term of thirty-one years in violation of General Statutes §53a-35(c)(2). This is so because the one year sentence for threatening was added to both the maximum and minimum terms and not just to the minimum ....

> The sentence imposed on October 5, 1982, was itself illegal because it was not imposed in accordance with statutory authority.

197 Conn. at 501-02; Petition at 18A-19A. (Footnotes omitted.)

"Respect for the independence of state courts, as well as avoidance of rendering advisory opinions, have been the cornerstones of this Court's refusal to decide cases where there is an adequate and independent state ground." Michigan v. Long, 463 U.S. 1032, 1040 (1983). Such a bona fide separate, adequate, and independent state ground explicitly exists in this case. Under these circumstances, this Court should "not undertake to review the decision." Id. at 1041.

III. THE QUESTION OF FEDERAL LAW IS CONTROLLED BY PRIOR DECISIONS OF THIS COURT.

As the Supreme Court of Connecticut carefully explained, the federal question presented is squarely controlled by Simpson v. Rice, decided sub nom. North Carolina v. Pearce, 395 U.S. 711 (1969). The respondent in that case had originally pleaded guilty to four counts of second-degree burglary and had received an aggregate sentence of 10 years. He subsequently brought a state post-conviction proceeding and was successful in having the judgment set aside on the ground that he had not been accorded his constitutional right to counsel. This time he exercised his right to trial, was convicted, and received an aggregate sentence of 25 years. Id. at 714.

The Alabama warden having custody of Rice submitted a brief to this Court that emphasized the distinction between sentences imposed after pleas of guilty, on the one hand, and sentences imposed after full-fledged trials, on the other. The custodian's argument is worth repeating at some length, for it is, essentially, the very argument that Petitioner makes in the instant case.

> Courts have recognized that pleas of guilty are the result of a bargain or agreement with the prosecutor and that a guilty defendant must always weigh the possibility of receiving a more severe sentence on a plea of not guilty than he will receive as a result of an agreement with the prosecutor for a lighter sentence. Cooper v. Holman, 356 F.2d 82 (5th Cir.), [cert. denied, 385 U.S. 855 (1966)]; and Cortez v. United States, 337 F.2d 699 (9th Cir. [1964), cert. denied, 381 U.S. 953 (1965)].
>
> In Alabama maximum sentences which may be imposed upon persons convicted of crime are fixed by statutes. The effect of the judgment of the court below in the case at bar is to reduce this statutory maximum as to the respondent. If said judgment is allowed to stand the trial courts of the State of Alabama will not be allowed to impose maximum sentences upon convictions after pleas of not guilty in cases in which the accused has been previously sentenced to short terms upon pleas of guilty.
>
> The judgment below approves the finding of the District Court that no justification is shown in the case at bar for more severe punishment after reconviction. It is respectfully submitted that the petitioner should not have been required to show any fact other than the fact that the first conviction was on a plea of guilty and the second conviction was imposed only after a trial on a plea of not guilty. One accused of crime is in many instances given a lighter sentence when he enters a plea of guilty than when he is convicted after insisting that he is not guilty. It is our contention that this is a healthy situation from the standpoint of the accused as well as from the standpoint of society. See United States [ex rel. Starner] v. Russell, [378 F.2d 808 (3d Cir.), cert. denied, 389 U.S. 889 (1967)].
>
> This Honorable Court has never held that a more severe punishment on a second trial is unconstitutional. The better and more just reasoning is found in those cases which hold that a new trial bears no relationship to a previous plea of guilty and begins with the slate wiped clean.

Brief of Petitioner in Simpson v. Rice, decided sub nom. North Carolina v. Pearce, supra, at 8-9.

The importance of this argument, in retrospect, is twofold. First, it conclusively demonstrates that the argument advanced by Petitioner is in no way novel. And, even more importantly, the plain fact is that this argument lost. The Court squarely held that the increased sentence imposed in Rice violated the Due Process Clause and, in doing so, imposed its well-known

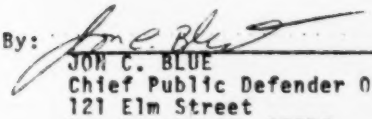
prophylactic rule. 395 U.S. at 725-26. The battle Petitioner seeks to wage has already been fought and lost, and no compelling reason exists to undo what is now one of the clear landmarks in our jurisprudence. The instant case is evidence enough that the various constitutional protections accorded criminal defendants who plead guilty, see Petition at 5-6, are no guarantee against the imposition of illegal sentences. And when, as in the instant case, such a sentence is imposed, there is no valid societal interest in chilling the constitutional and statutory right to challenge such a sentence.

One final consideration must be noted. The decision of the Supreme Court of Connecticut would be compelled even in the absence of the prophylactic rule of Simpson v. Rice because it is perfectly clear from the record that Respondent's increased sentence was vindictive in fact as well as in law. Petitioner's post hoc handwringing about "the traumatic impact" of the trial on the complaining witness, see Petition at 10, while ordinarily an understandable concern, is belied in this case by its previous representation to the habeas corpus court that it "would be delighted" to try the Respondent. State v. Sutton, supra, 197 Conn. at 490 n.9; Petition at 7A n.9. And, as discussed in the Statement Of The Case, supra, the only reason that Petitioner and the trial court provided for Respondent's increased sentence was his exercise of his constitutional right to trial. Under these circumstances, no presumption of vindictiveness is necessary. The decision of the Supreme Court of Connecticut should, consequently, not be reviewed.

CONCLUSION

The writ should be denied.

RESPONDENT
RONALD SUTTON

By: 

JON C. BLUE
Chief Public Defender Office
121 Elm Street
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 789-7477
Counsel for Respondent

November 22, 1985